

MG 64

Frank Luke Jr.

A-2002-24

Biographical Note

Frank Luke Jr. was one of nine children born to Frank and Otilia Luke. He was born in Phoenix on May 19, 1897. He graduated from Phoenix Union High School and enlisted from Tucson in the army on September 25, 1917. Officers in the army encouraged Frank to become a flier.

In November of 1917 Frank took his first solo flight in San Diego, California. He was commissioned second lieutenant in the Aviation Section of the Army Signal Corps. In March of 1918 he boarded the USS Leviathan for more training in England. He went to Issoudon, a training field in France and flew several missions with the First Pursuit Group. Frank was killed on September 29, 1918 at Murvaux, France after destroying fourteen balloons and four enemy aircraft during his military career.

Posthumous medals included the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Italian War Cross, the Aero Club of America Medal for Honor & Bravery and the Margarite Fisher Gold Medal.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of one document box with twelve folders. There are six series: 1 Correspondence from Frank Jr. to his mother; 2 Correspondence from Frank Luke Jr. to his father; 3 Correspondence from Frank Luke Jr. to his sister Eva; 4 Correspondence to Frank Luke Jr. from family; 5 Miscellaneous correspondence; 6 Ephemera.

The photograph collection consists of many photographs of Frank Luke Jr. other aviators, and scenes in France.

The records cover the years 1914-1943 with bulk dates of 1917-1919.

The correspondence describes the military training of Frank Luke Jr. and his flying experiences in Europe. Family letters detail events in their lives in Arizona. Several letters and postcards are sympathy expressions to Mr. & Mrs. Frank Luke Sr.

A grandniece, Mrs. Kathleen Haas and her brothers, Thomas, Michael and John Weland donated the Frank Luke Jr. collection of letters, photographs and ephemera.

Series Description:

Series 1: Correspondence from Frank Jr. to his mother

Series 2: Correspondence from Frank Luke Jr. to his father

Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records
History and Archives Division

Series 3: Correspondence from Frank Luke Jr. to his sister Eva

Series 4: Correspondence to Frank Luke Jr. from family

Series 5: Misc. correspondence

Series 6: Ephemera

Inventory

Series 1: Correspondence from Frank Jr. to his mother

<u>Box:Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1:1	Cornelia, AZ-friend Floyd, trip to find Indian reservation	June 1, 1916
1:1	Free dances, tried to get a job, store business	June 6, 1917
1:1	Will land in Austin tomorrow (postcard)	September 28, 1917
1:1	Austin, Texas-aeronautics school, room inspection, salary, will learn telegraphy and rifles, got a shot	October 2, 1917
1:1	Austin,-studying hard, needs loan (postcard)	October 5, 1917
1:1	Austin-test results (postcard)	October 6, 1917
1:1	Austin, Texas-don't send clothes(postcard)	October 11, 1917
1:1	Austin-hopes to be sent to Egypt (postcard)	October 11, 1917
1:1	Austin-needs his chemistry book (postcard)	October 12, 1917
1:1	Austin-taking engine test (postcard)	October 27, 1917
1:1	Austin-needs money	October 29, 1917
1:1	Austin-leaving for New York in two weeks, still testing	November 9, 1917
1:1	Austin-needs uniforms, thanked Anna for money	November 11, 1917
1:1	Austin- wants mother to write, studies	November 19, 1917
1:1	Austin-graduated, has 2 day leave at Driskill Hotel, plans to go to San Diego instead of New York	November 25, 1917
1:1	Los Angeles-had Thanksgiving dinner at Rosslyn Hotel, leaving San Diego	November, 1917
1:1	San Diego-Signal Corps Aviation School, glad to see Dad, flew alone, invited to dance	December 14, 1917

Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records
History and Archives Division

<u>Box:Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1:2	Los Angeles-leaving for San Diego, going to dance with Maria	February 9, 1918
1:2	California Limited-en route to flying school in New Jersey, will stay over in Chicago	February 19, 1918
1:2	New York-sightseeing, will look up Uncle Joe, send picture to Maria	February 27, 1918
1:2	New York-at the Herald Square Hotel, Uncle Joe	March 1, 1918
1:2	New York-saw Uncle Joe and Aunt Mary	March 2, 1918
1:2	France-voyage on U.S.S. Leviathan, will take 2 or 3 months for advanced flying, likes military life	March 11, 1918
1:2	France-going to Chateau De Blois (postcard)	March 19, 1918
1:2	France-met four Phoenix boys, brother Ed, new suit	March 22, 1918
1:2	France-settled again, will not fly for a month yet	March 26, 1918
1:2	France-has classes regularly	April 3, 1918
1:2	France-enjoys classes, long walks	April 3, 1918
1:2	France-would like cake, sundries kit	April 5, 1918
1:2	France-heard shots during the night, cookhouse on fire	April 5, 1918
1:2	France-machines humming overhead, having a hard time learning French	April 8, 1918
1:2	France-hopes she likes souvenirs, not flying yet	April 11, 1918
1:2	France-rain keeps them away from flying	April 13, 1918
1:2	France-will have pictures taken	April 21, 1918
1:2	France-reading a lot, brother Ed	April 24, 1918
1:3	France-still training, forest near camp was on fire, food is expensive	May 11, 1918 (letter says 1915)
1:3	France-constant rain, hope they see Marie in San Diego	May 11, 1918
1:3	France-"Mother's Day," enjoys his time	May 12, 1918
1:3	France-arrived at new field, has been flying, formations are difficult, contour flying	May 17, 1918
1:3	France-traveled to two places, currently located on a large lake	June 2, 1918
1:3	France-still at Issoudon, expects to be in Paris soon, returned from Cazaux, lost luggage, saving money to buy Marie a ring	June 25, 1918
1:3	France-changed his location, not on the front yet but hopes to be soon	July 4, 1918
1:3	France-staying at YMCA Hotel in Paris	July 5, 1918
1:3	France-letters from home and Marie, has room in depilated house	July 24, 1918
1:3	France-had letters from Marie, traveled all over France, brother Ed	July 31, 1918

Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records
History and Archives Division

<u>Box:Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1:3	France-good health, weather poor	August 13, 1918
1:3	France-war going good for allies	August 26, 1918
1:3	France-had auto ride and dinner to nearby town, food expensive	September 8, 1918
1:3	France-bad weather, may spend his first winter in snow, aviators treated well	September 10, 1918
1:3	France- has been busy but well	September 21, 1919
1:3	France- feeling fine	September 28?
1:3	Baseball team played Globe, will play Tempe for the cup, will win the track meet	n.d.
1:3	Arrived safely overseas (postcard)	n.d.

Series 2: Correspondence from Frank Luke Jr. to his father

<u>Box:Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1:4	Los Angeles-will have Thanksgiving in LA, will leave for San Diego in the morning, will get commission after he takes the flying courses	November 30, 1917
1:4	San Diego-received money, flew solo will start machine gun training	December 19, 1917
1:4	USS Leviathan-ship was old German "Vaterland," insurance is paid up, spent money on equipment	March 3, 1918
1:4	France-received letter from Hanny re: suit, baggage lost going to Paris, flying pay is held up, flying grades good, had camera guns on plane, anxious to go to front	July 9, 1918
1:4	San Diego-finished course in signal, machine gun, nomenclature of the airplane, theory of flight, instruments, engines, military law, drills were difficult, will probably go to France	n.d.
1:4	Venice, CA- left Ajo, sold watch, waiting for letter from government to be sent to school	n.d.
1:4	Arrived safely overseas (postcard)	n.d.

Series 3: Correspondence from Frank Luke Jr. to his sister Eva

<u>Box:Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1:5	Finals, pictures in uniform	August 30, 1914
1:5	France-summer in Flagstaff, Phoenix boys, work has been taking planes from Paris to other places in France, Gotha raids in Paris	July 25, 1918

Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records
History and Archives Division

<u>Box:Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1:5	France-waiting for orders, it will be a long time for victory, glad she has a car now	August 30, 1918

Series 4: Correspondence to Frank Luke Jr. from family

<u>Box:Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1:6	Phoenix-from Dad-called Struckmeyer for him	July 9, 1917
1:6	Phoenix- from Dad-fill out form and send to Captain E. B. Lyon	August 24, 1917
1:6	Phoenix-from Mother-Happy Easter card	March 25, 1918
1:6	LA-from Dad-stayed in New York for 7 or 8 days, returned to California, Third Liberty Loan, plans on putting in a mill at the mine	April 28, 1918
1:6	Phoenix-from Dad-busy with bank work Ed is now in South Carolina, visited Eva Bullock, many growing cotton locally	May 25, 1918
1:6	Phoenix-from Eva-John Sherry is in the service, write to Leon Jacobs, brother Ed has his commission, Eva and Kelly sent their names into the Red Cross, swimming in the canal, will be in Lena	June 10, 1918
1:6	Merkin's wedding, invited Marie for the winter Flagstaff-from Mother-Eva joined Red Cross, father bought car, Ottilia learning to drive, cost too much to go to coast, Eunice in San Diego for summer	July 11, 1918
1:6	Phoenix-From Dad-American Aviation Branch, Ed may be on his way to the Front, bought Studebaker from Tom Childs, plans to go to California	July 12, 1918
1:6	Flagstaff-from sister Anna Marie Mama is out on a big ranch with Bill, Eva accepted into the Red Cross, please write to John Sherry, received letter from Marie, going to Grand Canyon	July 22, 1918
1:6	Phoenix-from Dad-brother Ed sent to Fort Sill, OK, bought Studebaker, Eva, Bill, Anna and Mama are in Flagstaff	July 24, 1918
1:6	Phoenix-from Mother-Eva expects to be called in Sept. with Kelly, Papa in LA, helping with Bill's reading, brother Edwin writes and is anxious to go overseas, Eunice expecting a baby	September 3, 1918
1:6	Phoenix-from sister Eva-mentions newspaper account of Frank's capture of a pilot, everyone is proud of him, packed for the Red Cross	September 21, 1918

Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records
History and Archives Division

<u>Box:Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1:6	Phoenix-from Mother-family and town is proud of him, brother Ed anxious to go overseas, he is till at Ft. Sill, keep safe	September 21, 1918

Series 5: Misc. correspondence

<u>Box:Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1:7	Phoenix-to Tillie from Frank-looking for house, busy electioning, children well	August 30, 1914
1:7	Georgia-Grants Moniem to Frank Luke "I also feel the trill (sic) given you by noble Frank Luke Jr." (telegram)	September 24, 1917
1:7	Miami-Charles Clark to Frank Luke Sr. congratulations on achievements of Frank Luke Jr.	September 19, 1918
1:7	Berkley, CA-W.H. Joyce to Frank Luke Sr.-clipping from the San Francisco Chronicle, congratulations on son Frank, mutual friend Bob Kern	September 21, 1918
1:7	San Francisco, CA-James Bell to Mr. & Mrs. Luke-congratulations on Frank's exploits in France	October 5, 1918
1:7	James Bell to Anna Marie Luke-Associated Press reports Frank missing since Oct. 20 (telegram)	October 28, 1918
1:7	Phoenix-Herbert Strickland to Frank Luke Sr.-knew Frank Jr. when they worked at Thayers and at the Palace Hardware Store, visited Luke house on East Adams	November 18, 1918
1:7	Paris, France-J.F. Alkire, 2st Lt. to Frank Luke Sr.-privilege to have known Frank Luke Jr., deepest sympathy	January 15, 1919
1:7	France-Edward Caddell Jr to Frank Luke Sr.-enclosing clipping re: Frank Luke Jr.	April 26, 1919
1:7	France-William T. Lott to Frank Luke Sr.-enclosing clipping of Frank Jr., enlisted in Phoenix, joins in his sorrow, sister is Mrs. Thos. Webb of Phoenix.	April 29, 1919
1:7	Auburn-Ina M. Hewitt to Frank Luke Sr.-sending article from Stars & Stripes, deepest sympathy	May 1919
1:7	New York-James Furlong to Frank Luke Sr.-"New York Evening Sun" article of Frank Jr., sympathy, Phoenix Union High School card "In Loving Memory of Frank Luke Jr."	May 20, 1919
1:7	Mary Ella Farnsworth to Mr. & Mrs. Luke Sr.-poem to Frank Jr. in memory	June 28, 1919

Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records
History and Archives Division

<u>Box:Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1:7	Washington-C.T. Men, Major General to Frank Luke Sr.-sending photo of Frank Jr., other copy placed at Luke Field, Pearl Harbor which was named for Frank Jr.	July 25, 1919
1:7	Riverside, CA- Mrs. George S. McClune to Mrs. Luke-their son had high regard for Frank Jr., they flew together in combat practice	August 27, 1919
1:7	Paris, France-Franklin L. Love-placed wreath from city of Phoenix on grave of Frank Jr.	May 30, 1931
1:7	Washington-A.D. Hughs to Mrs. Luke- declining her invitation to sail on the Roosevelt to visit grave of Frank Jr., 1933 will be last year for pilgrimages paid by the government	May 25, 1932
1:7	Tucson-Earnest Huhlein to Frank Luke Sr., Appreciates picture of Frank Jr.	June 11, 1934
1:7	Interlaken-Ancil Martin to Mr. & Mrs. Luke, unable to make long journey to visit Frank Jr. grave, enclosing grave location	August, ?
1:7	An "Arizonan" to Frank Luke Sr., enclosing clipping from "Stars and Stripes	n.d.
1:7	Mrs. Isabella Greenway to Mr. & Mrs. Luke "in memory" (card)	n.d.
1:7	George & Rose Betts-sympathy (card)	n.d.

Series 6: Ephemera

<u>Box:Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1:8	Phoenix Union High School report cards (2)	1916-1917
1:8	Doanne Merrill, Chairman of Commission of State Institutions to Col. W.A. Glassford, received telegram from Frank Jr. stating he passed exam, 1st Lt., Aerial Corps, asking for character reference	August 6, 1917
1:8	Honorable discharge from United State Army Enlisted Reserve Corps because he was "called to active duty," includes enlistment record	January 23, 1918
1:8	Appointment as Second Lt. in the Aviation Section Signal Officers' Reserve Corps	January 23, 1918
1:8	Instructions to pilots re: Spads- H.E. Harding, Commanding Officer, 27th Aero Squadron	July 24, 1918
1:8	Extract of Special Orders No.208-list of officers required to participate in aerial flights	July 28, 1918
1:8	Commendation for excellent work of First Pursuit Group of American Expeditionary Forces	August 14, 1918
1:8	"The Service Flag" Mrs. Lillie Ellis	February 1919

Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records
History and Archives Division

<u>Box:Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1:8	Mr. James Douglas from Howard Davidson, Germany-could not find info. on Lt. Luke, sent newspaper articles to Mr. Luke, 66 F. A. Brigade waiting to embark, both Mr. Douglas' son and Frank Brophy in that brigade	March 16, 1919
1:8	Mrs. Tillie Luke from C.C. Vargas, Disbursing Clerk, monthly check from Bureau of War Risk Insurance will be coming later in the month	November 1, 1919
1:8	Mrs. Eva Luke Flynn from Arnold Blumenthal Post commander, Frank Luke Jr. Post No. 1 of American Legion, Eva elected honorary member at special meeting	December 9, 1920
1:8	American Legion Auxiliary-card for Mrs. F. Luke Sr.	May 1929
1:8	Invitation to attend unveiling ceremonies of the Statute of Frank Luke Jr. at the State Capitol	November 11, 1930
1:8	Mother's Day statement- Mrs. Luke hopes mothers of Chinese flyers training at Luke Field can hear her voice on the radio	May 10, 1943
1:8	Evidence of Baptism for Francis Jos. Anthony Luke born on May 19, 1897, St. Mary's Parish	October 1, 1943
1:8	"The Death of Luke" poem by Jonathan Howard Michael	n.d
1:8	Recommendation of Frank Luke Jr.- A. B. Nichols MD- Phoenix	n.d.
1:8	"In Memory" Reed Chambers, Major U.S. Air Service	n.d.
1:8	"Best Wishes"	n.d.
1:8	"Cote d' Argent" postcard	n.d.
1:9	newspaper clippings	
1:10	newspaper clippings	
1:11	publication-Battle Stories-contains article on Frank Luke Jr.-"Balloon Burner"	September 1928
1:12	newspaper clippings on Col. Eddie Rickenbacher Frank Luke Jr.	